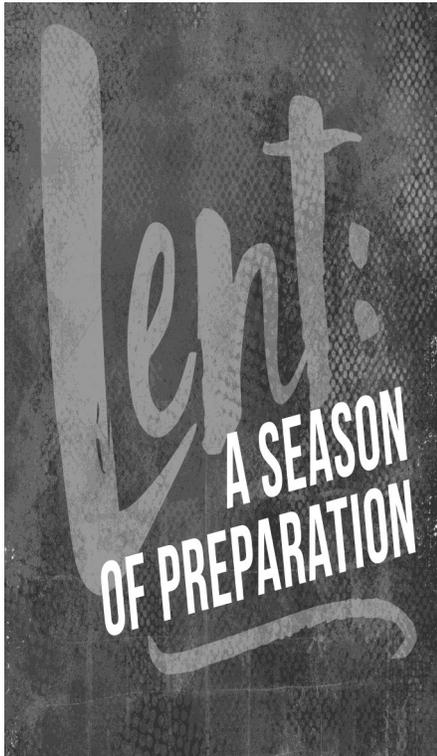


The Beacon

March, 2021



Stop, Look and Listen

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.

Sunday Worship

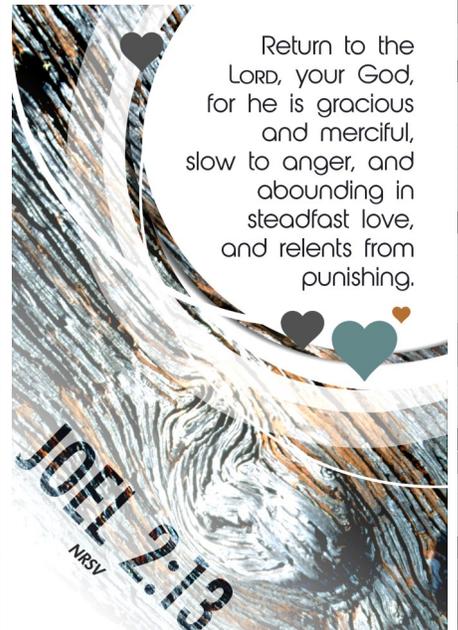
8:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Classes

9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Lent Services

6:00 p.m.



Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

St. John's Lutheran Church—Sherburn, Minnesota
317 South Main, Box 760, Sherburn, Minnesota
(507) 764-5312

Email: church@sjlsherburn.com

Website: stjohnlutheransherburn.org
[facebook@stjohnslutheransherburnmn](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheransherburnmn)

Pastor: Rev. Steven D. Wilson (507)236-1181

Vicar: Mr. Jeff Hagen (507)236-3114

Take It To The Cross

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

I Corinthians 1:18



Pastor's Message for Lent

The Portals of Prayer devotion for Monday, February, 22 was entitled "Take it to the Cross". I would like to share the devotion with you in this month's newsletter. For those of you who have read it and for those who have not, I found the devotion to be inspiring and uplifting with regards to the power of healing that is found in the cross of Jesus Christ.

A little boy eight years old had been behaving badly during the church tutoring program, part of inner-city outreach. A volunteer had tried prayer, kind words, and even a little tough love, with no success. He was about to give up.

Then he saw the child sitting by the cross, tears running down his face. The pastor had encouraged the children to take their troubles "to the cross," a large wooden cross draped in purple standing in a corner of the room.

The sobbing child shared his heartbreaking story: his father had walked out, his mother was on drugs, and he was living with his grandmother in the projects. A year earlier, a bullet shot through their window and injured him.

The tutor and child cried together at the cross, sharing his pain. "Jesus died on that cross because of His great love for you," the tutor said. "Jesus rose to give you new life. He will never leave you."

I have been humbled more times than I can count with those who have overcome tragedy and hardships in their lives, but have found strength and comfort in the cross of Christ. I have witnessed families who have mourned children who died in accidents, others who have lost their homes to fire, and those who are coping and dealing with sickness of all sorts, remain faithful and strengthened by the message of the cross.

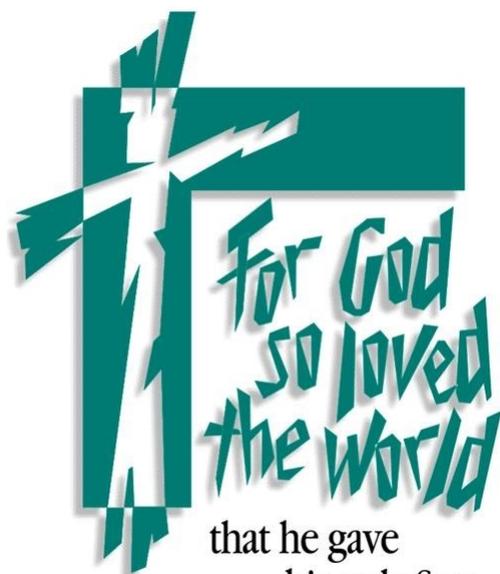
We as Christians find in the cross the love that God has for us sinners. He did not withhold His love from us, but instead He provided us salvation through the means of a cross. For it was on the cross that God offered His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sinfulness and to bring us into unending relationship with Him. No matter what we are faced with in this life there is nothing that can separate us from God's love found in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

The message of the Gospel is that Jesus died on the cross. For what? For you and me. For your sins and mine. What comes from Jesus death? Forgiveness and life. What kind of life? Everlasting life. With who? God our Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Where? In heaven!

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the cross and ponder its great importance in our lives as Christians.

We proclaim Jesus Christ and Him crucified!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Steven Wilson



John 3:16

“That Is So Tempting”

I'm sure many of you have at one time or another either said or thought, “That is so tempting!” For me, many times that phrase ends up being used on a food that really looks good to me, or if you ask Karis, I use that phrase whenever I see something that is John Deere at an antique store.



We are tempted by many things in our daily lives, many of them are about good things, but there are also many bad temptations that try to lure us in every day. For some of our temptations, they may only lead to us gaining weight or maybe buying something we really didn't need. But, there are also the temptations out there that can do very bad things to us, can lead us to make decisions that may change our life forever, and even temptations that will try to turn us away from our faith in God.

Recently when I was doing some research on a sermon message that I was to give on the story of Abraham and his son Isaac, I came across some interesting commentaries and articles about temptation and about tests. I was first of all reminded that God never tempts us, but the devil works overtime to tempt all of God's people.

In James 1:13-14, the Bible says, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”

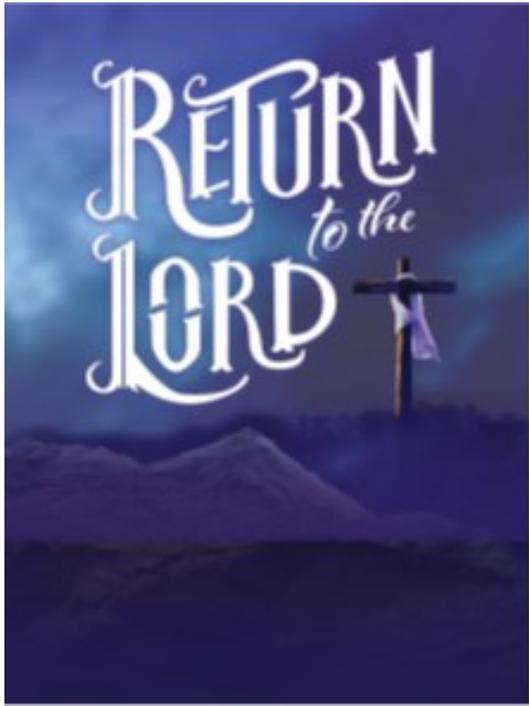


So, we have read that God will not tempt us, however he may test us once in a while as a way of strengthening our faith in Him. Think about the story of Abraham and Isaac. God tested Abraham when he told him to take his only son Isaac and lay him on an altar and offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain. Abraham had such a strong faith that he did as God told him and took Isaac up on the mountain, built the altar and stocked it with wood for the fire. He bound Isaac and laid him on the altar, reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. It was not until an angel of the Lord called out to Abraham and said not to do anything to Isaac did God really see His test of Abraham showed his true faith and fear of God in Him. As Abraham had told Isaac earlier on the journey up the mountain when he questioned where the sacrificial lamb was, “The Lord will provide”. And God did provide that day.

As we travel through the season of Lent, remember that whatever temptations the devil may throw our way or if there are days we feel our faith is being tested, always know that, “The Lord will provide.”

May God bless you, watch over you, protect you, and guide you as we journey together to the cross.

Vicar Jeff



Lenten Worship Continues "Return To The Lord"

This year our Lenten worship theme is "Return to the Lord", which is based upon a passage from Joel chapter 2. This particular Lenten season, we continue to focus on God's historic call to His people to repent and the things that might get in the way of us returning to God. Even if our desire is to return to God,

there are many stumbling blocks, not the least of which is ourselves. That is the subject of our Lenten theme this year as we dive into God's Holy Word and consider carefully the distinct difficulty experienced by the people we encounter in each biblical narrative.

We will also explore each week how that particular difficulty might be keeping us from returning to God or, equally important, how God may be using that very difficulty to draw us to Him. Whatever the case may be, it is always God's desire to be our God and for us to be His people (Jeremiah 31:33).

Pastor Wilson, Pastor Reimers and Vicar Hagen are rotating in leading worship at St. John's Sherburn, St. Paul's Wilbert and Our Savior's Ceylon throughout Lent. Message topics at St. John's for the remaining weeks in Lent include:

- Mar. 3 – Return From Betrayal
- Mar. 10 – Return From False Witness
- Mar. 17 – Return From Denial
- Mar. 24 – Return To the Kingdom of God
- Apr. 1 (Maundy Thursday) – Return to the Table
- Apr. 2 (Good Friday) – Return to Truth
- Apr. 4 (Easter) – Return and See

Please join us for Lenten worship at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday through March 24th!

Sunday services in March will be held at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School/Bible Classes will be held following the service.

Midweek Lent services are Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Visits

If you are not comfortable coming to church due to the virus concerns or otherwise, but would like to have a pastoral visit, communion, please contact the church office at 507-764-5312 or email us at the church office church@sjlsherburn.com

Church Events Cancellations

Please check your emails.

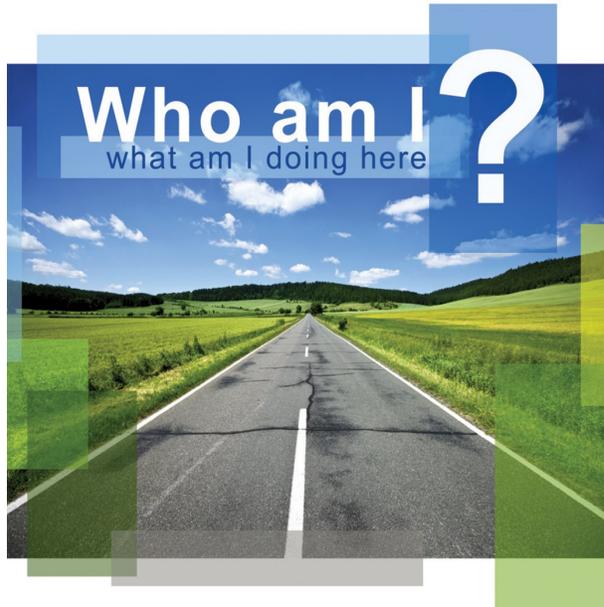
Please listen to the following radio stations for cancellations of church events

**Fairmont: KSUM 1370 AM
and KFMC 106.5 FM
Blue Earth: KJLY 104.5 FM
Jackson KKOJ 1190 AM and
KRAQ 105.7 FM**

You can also check the church website and facebook

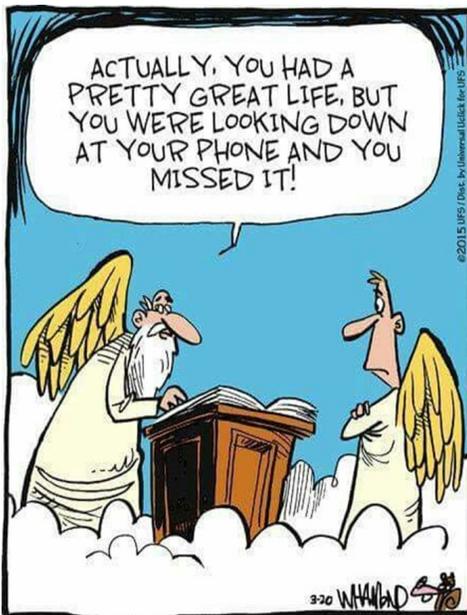


A come-and-go bridal shower will be held for Jordan Gregory, bride to be of Nick Holm, on Saturday, March 13 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sherburn.



Have you ever asked yourself "Who am I?" "What am I doing here?" Join us on Sunday mornings in the fireplace room as we explore these questions!

Begins Sunday March 7 @ 9:45 a.m. Meet in the fireplace room at church.



Ice Cream Social

Come enjoy homemade ice cream! On Sunday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church in Alpha will host a drive-thru ice cream social. Soup and ice cream will be in 12 oz. containers and brought to your car. Menu includes chicken dumpling soup, chicken wild rice soup, potato soup, ham sandwiches, monster cookie and ice cream. Free will offering.

We will be taking orders for Easter lilies during the month of March. An order sheet will be set out in the narthex of the church or you can contact us at the church office. The lilies will come from Sherburn Nursery and the cost is \$19.00. Please let us know who the lilies are given in memory of so that we can include it in the Easter bulletin.



Attendance

Sunday, February 7: 69

Sunday, February 14
Church cancelled due to weather

Ash Wednesday, February 17: 49

Sunday, February 21: 75

Lent, Wednesday February 24: 46

Planning Council

The next planning council meeting (church officers and board chairpersons) will meet on Tuesday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m.

"Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone's heart."



Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 14. Please make sure to set your clocks ahead one hour.

HyVee & Fareway Receipts

The LWML is asking that you save your Fairmont HyVee grocery and gas receipts and Fairmont Fareway receipts and drop them off at church in the container in the front entry. The LWML will be reimbursed \$1,000.00 from HyVee for a total of \$150,000.00 worth of HyVee receipts. Fareway will do the same.

Please continue to bring in your receipts as we work our way toward reaching the goal again! Thank you.

	HyVee Goal	FareWay Goal
150,000		
140,000		
130,000		
120,000		
110,000		
100,000		
90,000		
80,000		
70,000		
60,000		
50,000		
40,000		
30,000		\$30,168.05
20,000		
10,000	\$13,831.06	
0		

LWML February 10, 2021 Minutes

President Lynne Mulso called the meeting to order.

Pastor Wilson shared a film about how Valentine’s Day originated. It is a special day for Christians too as Christ loved us so much He gave His life for us.

Secretary’s report was read and approved.

Diane Nelson gave treasurer’s report for Mary Swanson and it was placed on file.

Diane Nelson gave report on grocery receipts.

Mary Swanson was thanked for updating the LWML bulletin board.

We discussed about having Karis Hagen speak. We will see when it is convenient for her.

Summer coffee hours were discussed. There was a suggestion just to have coffee and keep it simple.

Bethesda Lutheran Home is the project of the month.

We are to host the Spring Zone Rally and Zone Board meeting. Spring Zone Rally is May 1. The board meeting is to be changed as Pastor Larson cannot attend on Monday.

Judy Hybbert read about KSUO radio project to share the Gospel.

The birthday song was sung for Vicar Jeff Hagen.

The LWML pledge was said. We prayed the Lord’s Prayer and the table prayer.

Lunch was served with a festive setting by Dee Anderson.

~Lois Ziemer, Secretary.



**March LWML Meeting
Wednesday, March 10 @ 2:00 p.m.**

If you are not yet involved in LWML consider becoming a member of our group and join in their monthly meetings, devotions, mission service projects, and find joy in contributing to mites (mission dollars) to reach the lost with Jesus.

LWML Zone Executive Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 6, 9:30 a.m. at St. John’s Lutheran, Sherburn.

A penguin "parable"



During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective "crèches" (French for "cribs"); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

Sunday school children will be singing on Sunday March 28 during our church service. Please let their Sunday school teacher or the church office know by Monday March 15 if they will be attending to have a count for palm branches.



Still looking for Preschool and Kindergarten VBS volunteers during the week of June 7th to the 11th. Please contact the church office or any board members if you are interested in volunteering.

Jr. High FFF on Wednesday March 3 right after confirmation class. Look forward to some great food, some Gargon fun and faith time with Chris Kahler!

Jr & Sr High FFF – Sunday, March 28 right after Sunday School **10:45 a.m. to NLT 3:00 p.m.**

We will watch the Passion but break it up into sections with breaks so they can enjoy this AMAZING movie about what our Lord and Savior did for us. We are going to make it a great experience. Parents are invited as well!

WHAT: Dodgeball & watching the Passion together with Lunch and snacks

WHERE: TBD



Note to our church family: Be on the lookout for our next event that includes lots of pink and lots of fun!! Be on the look out for Flamingos!! Stay tuned.....

Our Youth Advisors encourage our youth to attend our mid-week Lenten services that are on Wednesday nights at 6:00. The theme for the Lenten series is "Return to the Lord Your God". Invite your friends and family to join you.

Youth Fundraising News

Thank you to those that supported the Ash Wednesday Potato Bake. We served about 60 meals and raised over \$300. Thanks to Paul & Marlene Stueven, Andy and Steph Truesdell, and Sheri Markquart for the donation of supplies. Thank you to Sherburn Legion for use of the building. Also thanks to the youth and parents that made time to work a shift.

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING 2-10-21

2-10-21 at approximately 6:00 p.m., President Paul Stueven called the Planning Council Meeting to order.

Present at the meeting: Pastor Wilson, Vicar Jeff Hagen; Paul Stueven (President); Robb Larson (Vice-President); Mary Johnson (Secretary); Cassy Roben (Board of Education); Kent Meyers (Board of Elders); Marlene Stueven (Board of Stewards); Jeff Markquart (Board of Trustees); Janet Kahler (Board of Parish Services); Sheri Markquart (Youth Committee)

Pastor Wilson opened with a short devotion and prayer.

Secretary's Reports

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of last Kingdom Builders and Planning Council meetings. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

There are a few differences in the reports with the new software.

The PPP funds will be renamed Restricted Funds.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Board of Elders-Kent Meyers

The service time of 8:30 will continue until further notice.

However, on Confirmation Sunday—May 2, the plan will be for 2 services.

Board of Education-Cassy Roben

When MCW is in session, there will be Sunday School.

However, when church is canceled, Sunday School is also canceled.

The Sunday School plan to sing at church service Palm Sunday.

The Senior Recognition Banquet is planned for May 23.

Youth Committee-Sheri Markquart

The youth were scheduled for a potato bake supper on Ash Wednesday.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, 2 options are available.

We can serve it at church as a "to go" meal.

Or, the Legion has approved to let it be held there at no cost.

It was decided to use the Legion option and perhaps people from community, not necessarily only our church members may attend since the Legion is not hosting Wednesday hamburger dinners at this time.

The youth plan for the Flamingo fundraiser discussed last year before Covid-19. They will take orders in April and start delivery in May.

Also, in May they will have a fundraiser in conjunction with the Sherburn Nursery. This will involve porch flowerpots which will occur in conjunction with Mother's Day holiday.

Mandi is planning a Senior High Bible class with the emphasis on Bible stories.

Board of Parish Services-Janet Kahler

The Board has not met since the Voter's Meeting.

Board of Stewardship-Marlene Stueven

With the help of Sheri Markquart, Vanco, the process of using credit or debit cards for offering is almost complete. The directions and requirements for this option will be added to our website. Also, a verbal pitch of 30-45 seconds can be added. This might encourage those watching the services online, who are not members, to contribute to St. John's.

Board of Trustees-Jeff Markquart

The Board has not met since the Voter's Meeting.

We are in the process of getting the piano and organ down from the balcony. This will not be done until after Easter due to mid-week Lenten services. There are several options regarding what to do with the organ. One option is to contact the company that has serviced/repared it in the past to see if parts are needed to repair other organs, since due the age, many parts are not available anymore. Another option is to see if any other congregations or organizations need an organ. This will be discussed at the next Voters' meeting.

(Planning Council 2-10-21 Page 2 of 2)

A portion of the rain gutter has been repaired.

Doug Rosenberg finished the roof/ice buildup prevention update.

Technology Committee-Sheri Markquart

The website is nearing completion. The soundbar and other technology updates at the time will be installed in the balcony after Easter.

Vicar's and Pastor's Reports

Midweek Lenten Service Schedule is as follows:

Ash Wednesday, February 17: Return to Prayer

Our Saviors'-Pastor Reimers St. John's-Pastor Wilson

Lent 1, Wednesday, February 24: Return from Betrayal

St. Paul's-Vicar Hagen St. John's-Pastor Reimers

Lent 2, Wednesday, March 3: Call to Return

Our Savior's-Pastor Wilson St. John's-Vicar Hagen

Lent 3, Wednesday, March 10: Return from Denial

St. Paul's-Pastor Reimers St. John's-Pastor Wilson

Lent 4, Wednesday, March 17: Return to the Kingdom of God

Our Savior's-Vicar Hagen St. John's-Pastor Reimers

Lent 5, Wednesday, March 24: Return from False Witness

St. Paul's-Pastor Wilson St. John's-Vicar Hagen

Maundy Thursday: Return to the Table: Mark 14:12-26

Good Friday: Return to Truth: John 19:1-16

Easter: Return and See: Matthew 28:1-10

Jeff will start another Bible class when the current one is done.

A member stopped in the church and suggested getting the rest of the congregation involved in home visits-not just Pastor Wilson and Vicar Hagen. Pastor suggested training to establish guidelines for these visits. This is/will be part of the times and talents under the Stewardship on the updated website. This member may be asked to lead this proposed project. Visits could possibly be made as couples.

Old Business None

New Business

The Board of Trustees will look into the possibility of a motion detecting camera and base unit for the church's outside doors.

There will not be in-person church service, Sunday, February 14 due to the forecast of extremely cold weather. Sheri will work with Pastor Wilson and Vicar Hagen to make a short podcast.

The ministry of Gary Thies, Mission Central from Mapleton, Iowa was discussed. His ministry involves many speaking engagements and a Creation Theater. He would not be available for many months or even until next year. It was suggested that Pastor Wilson check to see if we can get on his calendar.

Paul Stueven-President

President Paul Stueven asked the boards to submit dates of any known planned events or functions to the church office as soon as they are aware of them. The boards should share those dates with the Planning Council so that we all can work together to support the events.

Paul also challenged the boards to think of ways to engage the congregation in church activities, post Covid.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at approximately 7:25. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Johnson, Secretary

MARCH Birthdays

- 1 Layne Asmus
- 1 Jenna House
- 2 Jacob Flohrs
- 2 Grace Steffen
- 3 Robb Larson
- 4 Jina Behne
- 4 Lindsay Brandt
- 4 Biny Claussen
- 5 Chris Lindholm
- 6 Pauline Steffen
- 7 Laura Claussen
- 7 Gentry Chase
- 7 Molly Klima
- 8 Zac Ringnell
- 9 Sydney Beseke
- 10 Grant Koehnen
- 10 Sue Nelson
- 10 Charity Ringnell
- 11 Mary Broisma
- 11 Nancy Hansen
- 11 Lois Ziemer
- 11 Brian Krumwiede
- 12 Kylee Rowen
- 13 Jennifer Kuehl
- 13 Lynne Mulso
- 14 Doreen Burmeister
- 14 Sandi Fischer
- 14 Jayne VanderWert
- 14 Sam Meixell
- 15 Cathy Brandt
- 15 Noah Meixell
- 15 Christy Olson
- 15 Molly Roben
- 16 Dona Anderson
- 16 Joyce Ask
- 16 Chuck Brantner
- 16 Owen Runkle
- 16 Jarvis Weber
- 16 Ruby Roben
- 17 Tom Nelson
- 17 Lily Truesdell

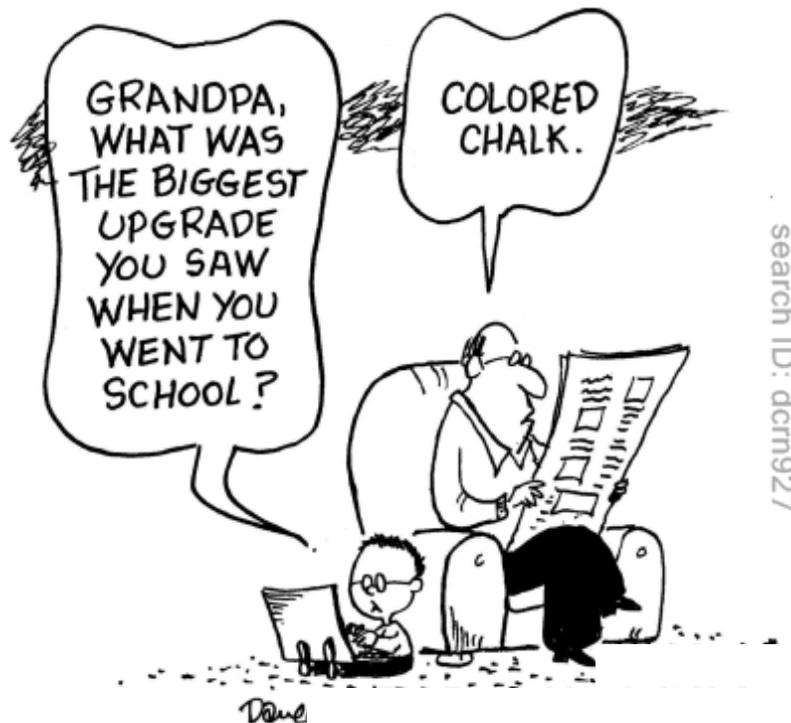
- 18 Theresa Anderson
- 18 Paul Weseman
- 19 Shawna Webster
- 19 Hayden Hartung
- 20 Fern Anderson
- 20 Gerry Wedner
- 21 Joe Schultz
- 21 Matthew Holtz
- 21 Aaron Klima
- 22 Thomas Wilson
- 22 Steve Meade
- 22 Sage Gerhardt
- 23 Richard Ammann
- 23 Huxley Clow
- 23 Jeanne Nelson
- 23 Andrew Ringnell
- 23 Amy Schutjer
- 24 Becky Mulso
- 25 Todd Lange
- 26 Val Gaalswyk
- 26 Julie Grill
- 26 Morgan Ringnell
- 26 Leslie Truesdell
- 27 Watson Crosby
- 27 Magen Raley
- 28 Ryan Baker
- 28 Jane Weseman
- 28 Matthew Zender
- 29 Sheila Rockefort
- 29 Bob Hoffmeyer
- 29 Nick Wedner

- 30 David Crissinger
- 30 Miranda Hanson
- 30 Graham Rudolph
- 31 Tom Beseke
- 31 Jakob Clow
- 31 Marlys Kahler
- 31 Michelle Rosen
- 31 Don Vagle

MARCH Anniversaries

- 1 Dennis & Sue Crissinger
- 6 Garland & Kathy Hendricksen
- 16 Don & Lyn Laue
- 22 Lance & Tiffanie Waldee
- 25 Ryan & Janet Kahler
- 28 Todd & Renee Amborn

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed please contact us at the church office. Thank you.



Stewardship

Stewardship gifts

“...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him” (Eph. 3:10–12).

What is the goal of our stewardship? This is really the WHY question of stewardship. Human beings were created for the task of being stewards. Read Genesis chapters one and two and we will see this. We were created to have dominion and subdue creation in a way that reflects the image of God in which we were created. This takes place in the way that we work and keep the creation entrusted to us by God.

The only problem we have with stewardship is found in Genesis chapter three. There, in an act of rebellion and sin, stewards named Eve and Adam claimed ownership over that which God had created them to steward. We have a word for claiming ownership over something that belongs to another. That word is theft. But they were stealing more than a fruit. They were stealing God’s place and God’s glory! Ever since that fateful day in the garden, we have followed suit. What God has given us to steward, we have attempted to own.

So, God once again shows His glory in establishing the eternal purpose of Jesus Christ. In going to the cross, Jesus restores us in forgiveness to the task of once again stewarding what God has given us. Forgiven and restored in Jesus, we are once again stewards. Not just of creation, but of the Gospel as it is served by creation, including us!

Today we pray again that we would be able to recognize the simple gifts the Lord has given us to steward for the sake of the Gospel. In this we make known the manifold wisdom of God. As we faithfully steward the simple gifts God has entrusted to us, we point people to the redemption and restoration of our stewardship through Jesus Christ. Remember, the world sees Jesus through your stewardship. What are you showing the world in how you steward God’s simple gifts?

Prayer

Blessed Lord, Your simple gifts are given from Your generous heart to a people who tend to want to own rather than serve. Lead us to repent of our ownership and then steward creation for the sake of the Gospel so that the manifold wisdom of Your grace might be shown through us. Amen.

St. John's Lutheran Church
317 South Main Street
P.O. Box 760
Sherburn, Minnesota 56171

The Lutheran Hour

Radio Broadcast: KSUM, Fairmont 1370 AM—Sundays @ 11:00 a.m.
KJLY Blue Earth 104.5 FM—Sundays @ 6:00 p.m.

March 7 "**A Place to Belong**" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A house is not a person—but, could a Person be a house, a place to belong? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about finding that place, in Christ. (Mark 11: 1-26)

March 14 "**Widow's Mite**" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Why did Jesus commend a poor widow who gave all her money to a corrupt institution that oppressed widows? Dr. Michael Zeigler takes a deeper look. (Mark 12: 13-34)

March 21 "**But He Is Strong**" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Mark 14:10-72)

March 28 "**TBD**" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Mark)